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# the gull

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## Harbor Seals: Do Not Disturb

Harbor Seals are slowly being eliminated from much of San Francisco Bay as disruption of their hauling out and pupping areas increases. They are very shy animals and will avoid their beaching areas entirely if disturbed by hikers, dogs or boaters. Very little is known today about these seals and controversy exists on how best to protect them.

Strawberry Point in Marin County, for example, has a threatened resident population on a small man-made spit. Dramatically increasing groups of joggers with their occasional dogs appear to be inadvertently hastening the elimination of the Harbor Seals from this favored area.

Our March program features biologist Sarah Allen of the Point Reyes Bird Observatory who will discuss her current research on the Harbor Seals of Bolinas Lagoon. Her slide show will give you an intimate look into the lives of these gentle and playful creatures.

We will meet Thursday, March 8, at 7:30 at the Travelodge at the Wharf, 250 Beach St., San Francisco. The Travelodge is located across from Pier 39 just east of Fisherman's Wharf. Free parking is available; use the Beach St. entrance and proceed up the east ramp. Due to the large turnout for the January meeting we will be in a new and larger meeting room. Check in the lobby for its location.

—RAY HASEY, *Program Chairman*

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## Field Trips Calendar

**Saturday/Sunday, March 3 and 4** — See February *Gull* for details.

**Saturday, March 10** — **Coyote Hills Regional Park.** Take the Nimitz Fwy. (Cal. 17) or Dumbarton Bridge (Cal. 84) to Jarvis Ave. in Newark. Drive on Jarvis to Newark Blvd. and follow the signs to the park. Meet at **9 a.m.** at the parking lot by park headquarters. Bring luneh. We should see migrating shorebirds and waterfowl. Leader: George Hulenburg (526-5289). (✓)

**Sunday, March 11** — **Tilden Regional Park.** From north Berkeley, drive up Spruce St. Where Spruce intersects Grizzly Peak Blvd. cross Grizzly and immediately turn left down Cañon Dr., follow signs directing you to the Tilden Nature Area. Meet at **9 a.m.** in the parking lot of the Nature Center. We will see species common to the Jewel Lake area. Lunch optional. Leader: Naney Conzett (527-2593).

**Saturday, March 17** — **Limantour Natural Area, Marin County.** Meet at **9 a.m.** at Limantour parking lot. From Hwy. 101 take the San Rafael exit and go west on Sir Francis Drake Blvd. to the town of Olema. Turn right and then left toward Pt. Reyes National Seashore headquarters. Continue north past headquarters to the Limantour road and follow it to the end. Bring luneh. You may want to bring rubber boots for the marshy area. Leader: Lynn Stensill. Info: Betty Short (921-3020 during working hours). (✓)

**Saturday/Sunday, March 17 and 18** — **Honey Lake.** Call for detailed directions. **Limited to 20 participants.** Lodging available in Susanville; primitive camping also available. We should see Sage Grouse, Bald Eagles, longspurs and other birds of the Eastern Sierra. Leader: Bob Hirt (566-4401). (✓)

**Wednesday, March 21** — **Mini trip to Lafayette Reservoir.** Meet at **8:30 a.m.** at south end of the Claremont Hotel parking lot to earpool. We'll see song and waterbirds. There is an entrance fee for the day. Lunch optional. Leaders: Ruth Voss and Delpha deTimofeev (632-5176).

**Saturday, March 24** — **Redwood Regional Park, Oakland.** Meet at **8 a.m.** at the intersection of Redwood Rd. and Skyline Blvd. by the gas station. We will earavan from there to the Skyline entrance at the northwest end of the park. We will hike about 5 miles. Wear hiking boots or sturdy shoes; pack a picnie lunch. We should see a wide variety of wintering birds and perhaps some early migrants. Leader: Dan Murphy (564-0074). (✓)

**Sunday, March 25** — **Sunol Regional Park.** Meet at **8 a.m.** at the Park entrance. Take I-680 south, turn off at Calaveras Rd., go left and

follow the signs to Sunol Park, about 5 miles. Bring lunch. We should see Golden Eagles and a variety of winter residents and early spring migrants. Leader: Peter Allen (548-4592). (✓)

**Saturday, March 31 — Bouverie Ranch, Glen Ellen.** An exploratory trip to a beautiful new area in the Valley of the Moon which may soon become a nature reserve and education center. A spectacular waterfall is one of the highlights of this trip. Spring wild flowers and early spring bird migrants will add to the interest of the area. Meet at **8:30 a.m.** in front of Sonoma French Bakery on the main square in the town of Sonoma. From San Francisco, take Hwy. 101, then turn right on Hwy. 37, left on Hwy. 121 and left on Hwy. 12 to Sonoma. From Oakland, take Hwy. 80, turn off past Vallejo on Hwy. 37, right on Hwy. 121 and left on Hwy. 12. We will caravan from Sonoma to Bouverie Ranch. Bring hiking shoes and a knapsack lunch and beverage. Leader: George Peyton (531-5588 — will be out of town Mar. 10-25). (✓)

**Sunday, April 1 — Alameda South Shore.** Meet at **9:30 a.m.** at Lincoln Park. From the Nimitz Fwy. (Cal. 17) take the High St. exit, go straight down High to Santa Clara (Lincoln Park). Bring lunch. We should see Red Knot (plumage changes), shorebirds, ducks and grebes. Leader: Leora Feeney. (522-8525).

**Carpooling** — The trips marked (✓) are those for which carpooling arrangements will be made. Each trip a few people call to ask for passengers, for which we are duly and properly grateful. However, there are always 5 or 6 more callers wanting rides than there are people wanting to take passengers. Many people of all ages without cars would appreciate the chance to go on the trips and some are very good birders. Riders share in all gas and fees incident to the trips. Call if you'd like to give someone the chance to escape the city and enjoy a day of birding. Phone Kate Partridge at 642-2881 (8 a.m. - 1 p.m.) or 548-0779 evenings until 9:30.

—FIELD TRIPS COMMITTEE

## January Observations - Through January 27

Except for the Common Skylark, January's rarest birds were species that are much more common at other seasons.

### PELAGICS

Boat trips out of Bodega Bay recorded six species of shearwaters (WFO), including two Manx from the fall flight on Jan. 13. The same trip found "lots of" Pink-footed Shearwaters and two of the always-rare Flesh-footed Shearwaters; and four Pink-foots were present Jan. 21. As rare as these two species are in winter, the real prize was a New

**Zealand (Buller's) Shearwater** Jan. 13. Single Manx and Pink-footed Shearwaters were also found in Monterey Bay Jan. 6 (DR). A Tufted Puffin off Bodega Bay Jan. 21 (JLu, WFO) deserves mention.

## WINTERING WATERBIRDS

Cattle Egrets lingered into January in several parts of the Bay Area. On the Farallones, where they "ate mice or picked insects and larvae from dirt stirred up by Elephant Seals" (bull and cow Elephant Seals?!), two or three stayed Dec. 5-Jan. 6 (PRBO). Black neckbands on a few of the Whistling Swans wintering in the Delta (WJLS, SFB) indicate that individuals may shift their wintering sites across the continent; bearers of black collars were marked in Maryland or North Carolina. Anyone sighting a neckbanded swan or goose should record the details and carefully read the band number if possible (advice suitable for any color-marked bird). I can provide information on how to report and receive the complete known history of that individual swan or goose. The Ross' Goose remained at Crespi Pond through Jan. 7 (DG, BH). Reports of Eurasian Wigeon and Oldsquaw were average, with four and six respectively. One Oldsquaw was an adult male at Bodega Harbor Jan. 21 (JM, WFO). Ducks scarce on the Farallones included the Islands' first Bufflehead on Dec. 19 - 26 (PRBO). Tufted Ducks no longer deserve bold print. The Lake Merritt individual reappeared Jan. 13 and 23 (JM, HC, *et al.*) and the one at Muddy Hollow was also refound Jan. 23 (AG, WG). An adult male Tufted Duck visited Richardson Bay Jan. 5-7 (mob) and a female-plumaged bird followed there on Jan. 13 (DM, *et al.*). A male Harlequin Duck spent New Year's Eve and New Year's Day at Moss Landing (EM, AM). Maxima of Black Scoters were 53 at the Point Reyes Lighthouse Dec. 23 (BH) and at Fort Funston 26 on Dec. 27 (DM) and 35 on Jan. 1 (BH).

An obviously bewildered Clapper Rail inhabited Lake Merced Jan. 3-4 (DM, KY, LCB). American Golden Plovers remained in fields near Spaletta Ranch, Point Reyes (mob), with five on Jan. 16 (AG, WG) the highest count. Also there was a Mountain Plover Dec. 30 (BDP, JP), and a different Mountain Plover was at the RCA Station Dec. 30-Jan. 6 (BDP, JP, *et al.*). The **200** Mountain Plovers in Panoche Valley Jan. 21 (CC, GGAS) were most impressive and encouraging. The Princeton Harbor Rock Sandpiper was seen again in mid-January (DMo). A very rare adult Glaucous Gull visited the Farallones Dec. 23 and first winter individuals were seen there on six days including two on Jan. 3 (PRBO). Our five mainland Glaucous Gull reports were: Salmon Creek Dec. 29 (second winter plumage—BDP, JP), Belvedere in early January, Bodega Bay Jan. 13 (WFO), Nelson's Landing, Napa Marshes, Jan. 13 (JS), and Coyote Hills Jan. 13 (second winter — VD). Pajaro Dunes hosted a Franklin's Gull in mid-January (JW, RW).

## SOUTHERN SURPRISES

Although many birds are misidentified as Northern Phalaropes in winter, this species is truly casual north of San Diego Bay at this season. Thus the presence of three **Northern Phalaropes** at San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge, Fremont, Jan. 10 (SFB) may be as surprising as the fact that one was a female in full breeding plumage (SFB, DE)! In years such as this one the first Allen's Hummingbirds return for breeding in late January but earlier *Selasphorus* probably are very rare winterers. *Selasphorus* hummingbirds were found at Bodega Bay Dec. 29-31 (RS, BDP) and Tilden Park Jan. 6 (BO'B). Formerly occasional in winter in its interior haunts, the **Cassin's Kingbird** in Panoche Valley Jan. 21 (CC, GGAS) was our first recent winter report.

## BOREAL/MONTANE SPECIES

A female Williamson's Sapsucker at Del Valle Regional Park Jan. 20-22 (AE, *et al.*) was quite rare away from the mountains. The only reported Northern Shrike was unexpectedly an adult, wintering near Sacramento (JLa, *et al.*). Another rare coastal visitor was the Cassin's Finch at Bodega Bay Jan. 10 (DS). Even in non-irruption years a flock of winter finches may wander into our area, as the eight Red Crossbills in Tilden Park Jan. 19 (NC) prove.

## WINTERING VAGRANTS

A small *Buteo* at West Pittsburg first noticed in December (AGi) was identified as an immature Broad-winged Hawk on Jan. 4 (GM, PB). It spent its days on overhead wires at least through Jan. 18 (DE, mob). The **Common Skylark** remained at the Hall Ranch at least through Jan. 23 (mob, AG, WG). The Yellow-billed Magpie wandering the Marin Headlands coast was reported in mid-January from Muir Beach. Observers found 4 Black-and-white Warblers: 1 at the Watsonville Sewage Plant Dec. 27 (EM), with 2 there Jan. 1 (EM, AM), Russian Gulch, Sonoma County, Dec. 31 (KVV) and Five Brooks Jan. 17 (CB). A Tennessee Warbler at Bodega Bay was last seen Dec. 31 (RS) and a Palm Warbler there was only observed Jan. 10 (DS). Auburn's **Black-throated Blue Warbler** is still wintering (JLa). The adult male American Redstart was refound at the Watsonville Sewage Plant Dec. 27-Jan. 1 (EM, AM).

A male Rose-breasted Grosbeak began visiting a feeder in El Cerrito on Jan. 9 (EWMcM). A bright Sharp-tailed Sparrow found Jan. 10 on San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge, Fremont (DE, SFB), the first sighting there in several years, reappeared Jan. 27 (JLa, EM, *et al.*) when a dull individual shared the site (SFB, KLB, DE, *et al.*). The disappointing spring tides also sufficed to force out the Palo Alto Sharp-tailed Sparrow Jan. 25-27 (JM, mob). Again this year a Harris'

Sparrow and a Golden-crowned X White-throated Sparrow are wintering in Palo Alto (mob). Two Swamp Sparrows at Laguna de Santa Rosa Dec. 17 (BDP, JP) and singles at Bolinas Lagoon Dec. 30 (RS) and at Inverness perhaps reflect normal numbers. The new year brought both the last report of a Chestnut-collared Longspur at the Hall Ranch and a rapid increase in Lapland Longspurs there to about 100 on Jan. 2 and through mid-month (RS, JE, mob), with about 30 estimated on Jan. 20 (mob).

**Observers:** Paul Arnerich, Karen L. Bailey, Stephen F. Bailey, Craig Benkman, Laurence C. Binford, Phil Brylski, Chris Carpenter, Herold Connon, Nancy Conzett, Linda Doersflinger, Vickie Dziadosz, Art Edwards, Dick Erickson, Jules Evens, Al Ghiorso (AG), Wilma Ghiorso, Alan Gille (AGi), Doug Gomke, Bob Hirt, Jeri Langham (JLa), John Luther (JLu), Akiko Makishima, Eugene Makishima, many observers (mob), Dianne McClung, Millie McEnhill, Mr. and Mrs. E.W. McMullen, Greg Miller, Joe Morlan, Doug Morton (DMo), Dan Murphy (DM), Bob O'Brien, Point Reyes Bird Observatory (Farallon report thanks to Steve Morrell and Harriet Huber), Western Field Ornithologists, Benjamin D. Parmeter, John Parmeter, David Rice, Don Roberson (DR), Dave Shuford, William J.L. Sladen, Golden Gate Audubon Society, Rich Stallcup, John Stirling, Kent Van Vuren, John Warriner, Ricky Warriner, Keiko Yamane.

—STEPHEN F. BAILEY, *Observations Editor*  
Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, University of California,  
Berkeley, CA 94720 (548-9507)

## Field Studies Class

“Environmental Field Studies,” six Saturday morning field trips in the East Bay led by Paul F. Covel, have been announced by Vista College. Dates are March 10, 17, 24, 31 and April 21, 28, 1979. Class meets at the Rotary Natural Science Center, Lakeside Park, Oakland, at 8 a.m. For information phone Vista College, 841-8431.

## Birding Golden Gate Park

### PART 2

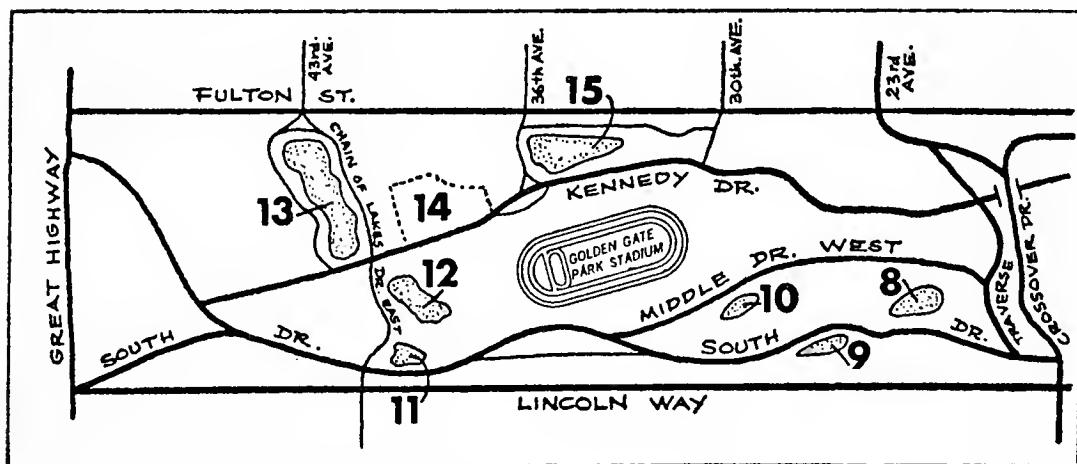
#### THE WESTERN UNDEVELOPED AREA — CROSSOVER DRIVE TO THE GREAT HIGHWAY

The western part of the Park is less structured than the eastern section. Built upon sand dunes, it is appropriately referred to as a “wildscape” and lends itself to more leisurely walks and birding experiences than the previously described areas.

The area north of Lincoln Way, between Crossover Drive and the Sunset Boulevard entrance to the Park, can provide excellent birding experiences. The area is dominated by a coniferous forest with a number of meadows and three lakes to add beauty and variety. This area has a number of sites conducive to picnicking. The paths transport you to areas of solitude and unique beauty. To bird the area adequately one should plan on walking around each lake as well as going off the beaten path into meadows, through the forest and following bridle paths instead of the streets.

A good place to start is Elk Glen Lake (#8). Located at the foot of 25th Avenue entrance on South Drive, this is generally the most regular site in the Park for European Wigeon. One has wintered here for the past several years. Wood Ducks favor this lake as well. There is little vegetation around the lake's edge, but the area is good for finches and sparrows, including the locally unusual Lincoln's Sparrow. The trees usually have a flock of Chestnut-backed Chickadees and Pygmy Nuthatches. Walk around the lake and return to South Drive where you should turn right. A more secluded trail is the bridle path across the street.

Mallard Lake (#9) is on the south side of South Drive between 25th Avenue and Sunset Boulevard. This is a fine duck feeding pond, a fact to which I can personally attest. There always seem to be plenty of Mallards, American Wigeons, coots and gulls present from early fall until midspring. Ring-necked Ducks, Lesser Scaup and an occasional Common Golden-eye winter here. Land birds can be found around the back side of the lake. They may include Black Phoebe, Red-breasted Sapsucker and, with a lot of luck, Red Crossbills. Like much of the park, Mallard Lake is under-birded and may be a far richer birding site than most of us realize.



From Mallard Lake continue west. If you're on foot, walk to the 30th Avenue entrance to the Park. A path comes down the hill from the left and continues on to the right. Follow the path to the right as it goes through a valley. About 200 yards to the right is Metson Lake. If you're driving, continue west, take the first right turn, then turn right again in about 200 yards. Continue to the top of the hill to Metson Lake.

### **Metson Lake (#10)**

This little pond is one of the most regular spots in the Park for Wood Ducks. They can be seen here during all months of the year, though they are much less frequently present during the summer months. Mew Gulls and a variety of ducks including Northern Shoveler are usually present during the fall, winter and spring. Check the trees on the south side of the lake for Hermit and Varied Thrush, Pygmy Nuthatch and Woodpeckers. The valley south of the lake is good for California Quail, sparrows and other species. Keep an eye on the sky for accipiters and Red-tailed Hawk.

From Metson Lake continue along Middle Drive West (keep to the right) until it ends at Transverse Drive; turn right and turn right again at South Drive for the return to Elk Glen Lake. If on foot, there are a number of alternate routes which can be taken. Walk from the south side of the lake to the valley below and go left to the end of the valley. Follow the dirt road to the right until it reaches South Drive and then walk to the left to Elk Glen Lake.

### **CHAIN OF LAKES**

The Chain of Lakes transects the Park between 41st Avenue and Lincoln Way and 43rd Avenue and Fulton Street. These three lakes provide one of the best and most popular birding sites in the Park. Varied habitat appear to be the key to this as a valuable birding and natural site. The seeming chaos of vegetation forming the marshes, the tangle of briars along the lakes' edges, the unpruned trees and the muddy shallow lakes combine to make the area an ecological niche favored by the largest variety of birds likely to be seen in the Park. Each element seems essential to the character of the area and its continuance as a natural recreational site.

### **South Lake (#11)**

Though generally unproductive during the summer, South Lake is good for ducks in other seasons. It usually harbors a number of Mallards, American Wigeons and coots. Look here for Lesser Scaup, Common Goldeneye and European Wigeon as well. The shrubs and trees on the west side of the lake may harbor Varied Thrush, Hermit Thrush, Chestnut-backed Chickadees and a variety of other small birds may

inhabit the shrubs and trees on the west side of the lake. The vegetation to the east is dense, difficult to walk through, and therefore seldom birded.

### Middle Lake (#12)

Middle Lake (#12) is among the most productive areas to bird in Golden Gate Park. During the fall, Virginia and Sora Rails may be heard from the marsh at the south end of the lake. A large variety of warblers, sparrows, thrushes and other small birds feed in the marsh and along its edge. The eucalyptus and Monterey Pines on the west side of the marsh are favored by fall migrants (e.g. Western Tanagers, Nashville, MacGillivray's, Townsend's Warblers) as well as some rather interesting vagrants (Black Throated Blue Warbler, American Redstart, Tennessee Warbler, Rose Breasted Grosbeak, Summer Tanager, etc.). Residents likely to be seen throughout the year include Downy Woodpecker, Brown Towhee, Anna's Hummingbird and Common Yellowthroat. The edges of the marsh are a jumble of blackberry briars which provide an abundance of food and excellent refuge for these and other species.

Continue north along the path to a small orchard-like area with hawthorn trees in it. Check here for robins, Cedar Waxwings, Pine Siskins and bushtits. This area is also good for Golden-crowned Sparrows, Fox Sparrows, Song Sparrows including some rather unusual subspecies, and occasional Lincoln's Sparrows. Leaving the path, go down into the little redwood grove. This area has been good for fall warblers in the past. It also provides excellent views of Middle Lake.

Continue around the lake. Watch for Western Pond Turtles on rocks and logs above water level. If you notice fins and splotches of muddy water you're seeing one or more of over 20 carp which inhabit the lake. Check the duck flock on the lake for Wood Ducks, Northern Shovelers and such. A single male Redhead Duck showed up in the fall of 1978.

The eastern side of the lake is excellent for most of the species previously mentioned. It provides fine views of the forested area east of the lake and of the marsh. The area near the California bay tree at the south end of the lake is good for finches, towhees and sparrows.

### North Lake

From the western side of Middle Lake follow the trail north to Kennedy Drive and cross Chain of Lakes Drive east. Walk west about 30 yards to the path that leads down a short but steep hill to the right. North Lake (#13) can be circled from either direction, but I prefer to go to the left. Chickadees, Bushtits and warblers can frequently be found in the trees overhanging the path. Within about 100 yards the

path turns to the right and crosses a small bridge. Check this area for spring and fall migrants and vagrants. There are records for American Redstart, Tennessee Warbler and Northern Waterthrush among others in this area. Some records, in fact, go back to the 1930s, making it one of the earliest known sites to see vagrants on the central California coast. Watch for finches, sparrows and Winter Wrens in this area as well. Continue around the lake. The marsh provides habitat for Common Yellowthroats, Yellow-rumped Warblers, Song Sparrows and occasional rails. The willows on the islands should be checked for roosting Black-crowned Night Herons and Wood Ducks. Watch for Downy Woodpeckers, Red-breasted Sapsuckers and other species likely to be seen in forested areas in the trees across the street near the golf course.

At the north end of the lake check the shrubs for Dark-eyed Juncos, Fox Sparrows and Brown Towhees. Keep an ear open for Belted Kingfisher here while you check the ducks and gulls. Wood Ducks and Northern Shovelers are regulars here and there are a few records for Ring-billed and Thayer's Gull. Continue along the east side of the lake to the starting point. The broader view from this side of the lake makes it a good place to look for Violet-green and Tree Swallows in the spring and summer. Check the trees across the lake for hawks and other roosting birds.

### **Buffalo Paddock**

On Kennedy Drive about 100 yards east of Chain of Lakes Drive is the Buffalo Paddock (#14). From Kennedy Drive check the field for sparrows, finches and blackbirds. Brown-headed Cowbirds can be seen here frequently. There are a few records of Tri-colored Blackbirds. A Red-tailed Hawk generally winters in the vicinity of this meadow. There is a water trough on the hill on the west side of the hill which is sometimes allowed to overflow. Scan the tall grass between the trough and the meadow for Common Snipe during the wet winter months, though if there is no overflow this will be an exercise in futility. The Buffalo Paddock can be circled on foot. The forest surrounding it is good for Dark-eyed Junco, Pygmy and Red-breasted Nuthatch, Brown Creeper, Yellow-rumped Warbler and various woodpeckers. Golden-crowned Sparrows can frequently be seen at the east and west end of the Paddock in vicinities near shrubs. The fact that the meadow is fenced off makes it a unique short grass prairie which is seldom disturbed by man and therefore provides an open, undisturbed area for birds and small mammals needing such habitat.

### **Spreckles Lake**

Just east of the Buffalo Paddock on Kennedy Drive is Spreckles Lake (#15). It is a fine spot for viewing wintering gulls and ducks. Glaucous-

winged, Western, California and Mew Gulls are common here. There are infrequent sightings of Ring-billed, Herring and Thayer's Gulls. Western and Heermann's Gulls can generally be found here during the summer. The winter duck population includes Mallards, American Wigeons, Ruddy Ducks, Lesser Scaups and Canvasbacks. Pintails and Greater Scaups can be seen here from time to time. There are several European Wigeon records for this lake. Check here also for Western and Pied-billed Grebes, Double-crested Cormorants and, less frequently, loons, other grebes and ducks.

There are also other parts of Golden Gate Park in which to seek birds. Lloyd's Lake on Kennedy Drive can be productive. The trail around it is rather isolated. The Dutch Windmill, Murphy Windmill and the cypress trees forming the wind break along the Great Highway may also be productive though this area, too, is rather isolated. The footpaths extending from 45th Avenue and Lincoln Way to Middle Lake are good for sparrows. The roads between the eastern side of Spreckles Lake and the 30th Avenue and Fulton Street entrance may also be interesting.

It is important to remember that this site guide is valid for the period from mid-September until the end of April. Between May and early September waterfowl abandon the Park for northern breeding areas. Many of the species discussed in this article are absent or in reduced numbers during the summer. If you do bird the park during the summer you may expect to find Downy Woodpecker, Pygmy Nuthatch, Band-tailed Pigeon, Brown Towhee, Brewer's Blackbird and a variety of sparrows and finches.

—DAN MURPHY®

## Conservation Notes

**EPA DECISION ON 2,4,5-T NEAR.** The Environmental Protection Agency will decide by next month whether or not to remove the controversial and deadly herbicide 2,4,5-T from the market. The chemical, known to cause birth defects and to be harmful to wildlife, is widely sprayed on our national forests by the U.S. Forest Service.

**CONGRESS CONSIDERS RARE II.** The U.S.F.S. will present its RARE II recommendations to Congress this month. The Forest Service proposals are heavily development-oriented, though the public support for wilderness was reportedly high. The Siskiyou region, for instance, received 1,920 letters for wilderness — 87% of the total number received for this rugged mountain region. In spite of unstable soils and steep slopes it has been marked by the forest bureaucrats for heavy logging.

**U.S. MARINE PROTECTION AND OIL.** The federal government

is considering three sites off the California shore for sanctuary designation under the Marine Protection, Reserve and Sanctuaries Act of 1972. They are Monterey Bay, the Santa Barbara Channel Islands area and the Pt. Reyes-Farallon Islands area. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration considers these some of the most ecologically important waters along the California coast.

However, plans proceed apace to lease offshore California tracts for exploration and development of oil and gas deposits. Once actual drilling and production begins, industry pressure will mount for additional on-shore storage and refinery facilities. There is the constant threat of a massive spill and its impact on marine life. A new draft leasing program is due sometime in March and a public comment period will follow, with the lease sale now scheduled for 1981.

**CONDOR PLAN RECONSIDERATION URGED.** A U.C. Research Associate in the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology has asked that the American Ornithologists' Union reconsider its plan to capture California Condors and breed them in captivity. Carl B. Koford states that the benefits of "these dramatic artificial methods . . . are doubtful, whereas their harm to the wild population is certain." The plan, endorsed by National Audubon Society and now being considered by the Department of the Interior, calls for trapping and retaining all immature birds during a period of five years, taking eggs and young from nests to encourage annual rather than biennial nesting and capturing all condors to fit them with plastic tags and radio transmitters—all to reverse a steady reduction in the condor population.

Dr. Koford, who has done some intensive research on condors in the past, feels these methods will only hasten the decline of the bird, but that "the key remedial factor is unknown . . . Hence, top priority should be given to greatly intensified field work to discover the decimating factors and to formulate practicable remedies."

Details of Dr. Koford's objections and proposals are available at the GGAS office and he welcomes any response for discussion or further information. Address these to Carl B. Koford, Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, University of California, Berkeley, CA 94720.

—CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

## California Condor Welfare Fund

To assure the survival of the condor population in the wild, fresh behavioral studies are needed aimed at diagnosing condor troubles and devising proper remedies for these. A fund has been established to support current field work that will complement the condor programs

of national and state government agencies. The new studies will emphasize behavior related to reproduction, feeding and survival, and the method will be patient direct observation without disturbing the condors. This work will be carried out by University of California biology students and other qualified volunteers who will be aided in the field and supervised by Carl B. Koford of the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, UCB. Tax deductible contributions to this new study and appraisal of condor welfare will be gratefully received throughout 1979 by: Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, UCB, 94720.

## In Honor of Elsie

On February 6 the East Bay Regional Park District's Board of Directors voted unanimously to name Alameda's shore between Park Street and Broadway the Elsie B. Roemer Bird Sanctuary. This action came after two years of written and verbal recommendation from the National Audubon Society, GGAS, many citizens who knew of Elsie's work and love for birds, as well as support from the Park District's staff.

Elsie developed an interest in birds in the early 1950s. A friendship with Junea Kelly, well known for her class "Six Trips Afield," may have had some influence on Elsie and the careful records she kept of her observations from the start.

Ensuing years brought major fills and development which changed the shores of Alameda, and Elsie became active in conservation efforts. She gave much of her time trying to educate influential people on the value of wildlife and of protecting its habitat. A major argument she used for preserving open space in the Alameda area was that it would prevent dispersion of birds to the Oakland Airport properties where the birds might be a threat to airport safety. Her comments couldn't be ignored.

Elsie worked closely on the Citizen's Advisory Group for San Leandro Bay. The information on birds in their report came from her. She worked energetically to keep Doolittle Pond on San Leandro Bay from being filled as an extension of Alameda's dump.

Elsie's personal records on the shore of Alameda and Doolittle Pond developed into a census taken twice monthly which was used by the Fish and Game Department for a study they did from 1971 to 1975. Elsie organized a team of birders to do the count with her, meet at her home afterward for a compilation and lunch get-together. When the State study was finished the census workers decided to continue censusing the birds along the shore — the very shore we can now call the Elsie B. Roemer Bird Sanctuary.

At 86, Elsie is not able to move about the shore as she once did. She continues, however, to work as she can to compile the records that are brought to her and provide information about the birds to those who need it. To her friends, the shore of Alameda and Elsie Roemer are synonymous. The Park District's designation is most appropriate and appreciated.

-LEORA FEENEY

## Gifts and Bequests

## For Audubon Canyon Ranch

In memory of Gift of  
Harold B. Cox Marian Vadas

In memory of  
Rose Hosepian

## **For Alameda-San Leandro Bay Nature Fund**

For GGAS

## For Bay Shore (Emeryville Crescent)

Mrs. Lillian Sloneskz

Memorial and honorary gifts and bequests will be used as specified by the donors. Acknowledgement will be made in *The Gull* and personally by the Corresponding Secretary, Minnie Groshong. Please send checks made out to the Golden Gate Audubon Society to: Corresponding Secretary, GGAS, 2718 Telegraph Avenue, Berkeley, California 94705. All gifts are tax deductible.

## New Books Received by GGAS Library

*How to Know the Birds*, Roger Tory Peterson, 1957, New American Library, Inc.

*King Solomon's Ring*, Konrad Lorenz, 1952, New American Library, Inc.

*Mankind at the Turning Point*, Mihajlo Mesarovic, 1974, New American Library, Inc.

*The Sea Around Us*, Rachel Carson, 1961, New American Library, Inc.

**Note:** This ballot is for members of the Golden Gate Audubon Society only. Unless you are a member, do not return this ballot.

For your vote to be counted, this ballot must be returned not later than **April 30**. Please remove this page from *The Gull* (with your name and address on the back) and mail or bring it to the Golden Gate Audubon Society, 2718 Telegraph Ave., #206, Berkeley, CA 94705.

**Check one:**

- This ballot represents one vote for each candidate marked.
- This ballot represents two votes (family membership).

**Vote for eight:**

- Robert Hirt, President
- Robert G. Gordon, First Vice President
- Dora Conrath, Second Vice President
- John Stewart, Treasurer
- Jolaine Munck, Recording Secretary
- Minnie Groshong, Corresponding Secretary
- Maybelle Groshong, Director
- Dan Murphy, Director

## UC Extension Schedule Includes Natural Studies

The 1979 schedule for the University of California Extension's travel-study course includes three of interest to GGAS members:

*Switzerland* — the botany, plant ecology and geology of the Alps, July 15 - 29.

*Baja California* — marine and bird life among the islands of the "Sea of Cortez," June 16 - 23.

*Galapagos Islands* — unique life forms in Darwin's "living laboratory of evolution," July 2 - 17. This course will be repeated December 18, 1979 - January 1, 1980.

For more information write UC Extension, 2223 Fulton St., Berkeley, CA 94720.



Golden Gate Audubon Society, Inc.

Office: 843-2222

2718 Telegraph Avenue, #206

Berkeley, California 94705

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## THE GULL

March 1979

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Executive Director, Vera Paraschak (843-2222)

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Mail for all individuals listed above should be sent to the GGAS office.

Send address changes to office promptly; Post Office does not forward **THE GULL**. Monthly meetings: second Thursday, 7:30 p.m. Joint membership - local and national \$18 per year (individual); \$21 (family); includes **AUDUBON** Magazine and **THE GULL**; to join, make checks payable to National Audubon Society and send to GGAS office to avoid delay in receiving **THE GULL**. Membership renewals should be sent directly to the National Audubon office. Subscriptions to **THE GULL** separately \$4 per year; single issues 40¢. High school and college student membership \$13.50 per year. Senior citizen individual, \$13.50, senior citizen family, \$15.50.

The Golden Gate Audubon Society, Inc. was established January 25, 1917, and became a chapter of National Audubon in 1948.

**The Gull** deadline is the first of the month for the following month.